

REMARKS

Applicants have carefully reviewed the Application in light of the Office Action mailed May 17, 2005. At the time of the Office Action, Claims 1-3, 5-15, 17-26, and 28-44 were pending in the Application. Applicants amend Claims 2-3, 5, 7-13, 24, and 36 and cancel Claims 1, 6, 18, and 29, without prejudice or disclaimer, and add Claims 45-47. Applicants' amendments, cancellations, and additions have been done to advance prosecution in this case and not to overcome prior art. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the pending claims and favorable action in this case.

Section 103 Rejection

The Examiner rejects Claims 1-3, 5, 11, 13-15, 17, 22, 24-26, 28, 34, and 36-39 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,356,545 issued to Vargo, et al. (hereinafter "*Vargo*") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,108,560 issued to Navaro, et al. (hereinafter "*Navaro*"). To defeat a patent under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), the claimed *combination* must be obvious. *Kimberly-Clark Corp. v. Johnson & Johnson*, 745 F.2d 1437, 223 U.S.P.Q. 603 (Fed. Cir. 1984). Therefore, it is essential to view the invention as a whole, taking each element into account as well as the advantages, properties, utilities, and results of the invention. *In re Chupp*, 816 F.2d 643, 2 U.S.P.Q.2d 1437 (Fed. Cir. 1987).

Applicants cancel Claim 1 and amend Claims 2, 3, 5, and 11 to depend from allowable Claim 40. Neither *Vargo* nor *Navaro*, alone or in combination, disclose, teach, or suggest, either expressly or inherently, each and every element of the claims. Thus, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claims 2, 3, 5, and 11.

Applicants amend Claim 13 to include the limitations of canceled Claim 18, amend Claim 24 to include the limitations of canceled Claim 29, and amend Claim 36 to include the limitations of canceled Claim 6. Independent Claims 13, 24, and 36 each recite certain limitations of similar scope to allowable Claim 40. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claims 13, 24, and 36 together with their dependents.

The Examiner rejects Claims 10 and 33 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being unpatentable over the combination of *Vargo* and *Navaro* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,512,924 issued to Sawada, et al. (hereinafter "*Sawada*"). Applicants amend Claim 10 to

depend on allowable Claim 40, and Claim 33 depends on amended Claim 24. Thus, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claims 10 and 33.

The Examiner rejects Claims 12, 23, and 35 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being unpatentable over the combination of *Vargo* and *Navaro* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,798,786 issued to Lo, et al. (hereinafter "*Lo*"). Applicants amend Claim 12 to depend on allowable Claim 40, Claim 23 depends on amended Claim 13, and Claim 35 depends on amended Claim 24. Thus Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claims 12, 23, and 35.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's allowance of Claims 6-9, 18-21, and 29-32 and the Examiner's indication that the subject matter of these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. *Office Action*, p. 12. Claims 6, 18, and 29 have been canceled. Applicants amend Claims 7-9 to depend on allowable Claim 40. Claims 19-21 depend on amended Claim 13, which Applicants have shown to be allowable, and Claims 30-32 depend on amended Claim 24, which Applicants have shown to be allowable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 7-9, 19-21, and 30-32 are allowable and request reconsideration. Applicants further appreciate the allowance of Claims 40-44.

New Claims

Applicants add new Claims 45-47, which are fully supported by the specification of the present Application as originally filed. Claim 45 depends on allowable Claim 40, Claim 46 depends on amended Claim 13, and Claim 47 depends on amended Claim 24. Neither *Vargo* nor *Navaro*, alone or in combination, disclose, teach, or suggest the limitation of new Claims 45-47. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request consideration and allowance of new Claims 45-47.

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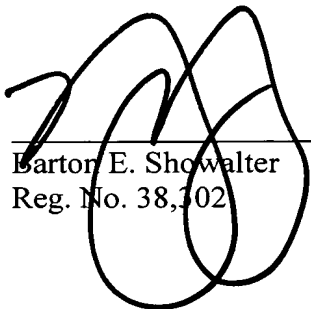
CONCLUSION

Applicants have now made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for immediate allowance. For the foregoing reasons and for all other reasons clear and apparent, Applicants respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims.

Applicants believe that no fee is due. If, however, this is not the case, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any amount required or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.

If there are matters that can be discussed by telephone to advance prosecution of this application, Applicant invites the Examiner to contact its attorney, Barton E. Showalter, at (214) 953-6509.

Respectfully submitted,
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